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BRANCH CONNECTING STRUCTURAL BODY OF A SUBMARINE CABLE

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[There are no amendments to this patent.]

Claims

- 1. A type of branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable characterized by the following facts: a cable collection consisting of plural cables is inserted into one end opening of a metal sleeve that is nearly cylindrical; a sensor cable holder having plural branch pipes is fixed in the other opening of said metal sleeve; plural sensor cables are respectively inserted through the branch pipes; inside said metal sleeve, said cable collection branched into multiple cables is connected to said sensor cables, and a thermosetting resin is injected to fill the interior of the metal sleeve, followed by curing, and at the same time, a heat-shrinkable tube with a prescribed width is shrunk such that it covers said branch pipes and sensor cables.
- 2. The branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable described in Claim 1 characterized by the fact that one end of said metal sleeve is formed to gradually taper down to match the outer diameter of the sheath of the cable collection, and is made to adhere to the sheath of said cable collection by means of a putty made of a thermosetting resin or liquid rubber, or the putty made of a thermosetting resin is applied to entirely cover the joint between said metal sleeve and the sensor cable holder as well as the region where the heat-shrinkable tube is applied.
- 3. The branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable described in Claim 2 characterized by the fact that the heat-shrinkable tube is arranged such that it entirely covers the outside of the branch connecting structural body of the submarine cable.

Detailed explanation of the invention

Industrial application field

This invention pertains to a submarine cable. In particular, this invention pertains to a branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable for branching a cable to enable connection to other cables on the seabed.

Prior art and problems to be solved

For communication cables laid on the seabed or other submarine cables, in many cases one cable must be branched to connect to other cables. The basic requirements for the branch connecting structural portion of the submarine cables include resistance to hydraulic pressure, and no water seepage into the cable connecting portion and the interior of the cables.

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a conventional submarine cable branch connecting structural body. In this case, cable collection (4) containing plural cables (2) is branched into plural portions in metal sleeve (6) provided at the submarine cable's branch connecting portion. They are connected by means of connecting fixtures (12) to the conductor portions of plural sensor cables (10) covered with polyethylene sheath or chloroprene rubber sheath (8). Cable collection (4) has its sheath fixed to one end (6a) of said metal sleeve (6), and sensor cables (10) are fixed to the other end (6b) of metal sleeve (6) while secured by cable holder (14). In this state, thermosetting resin (16) is injected to fill the interior of metal sleeve (6), followed by curing.

However, according to the research performed by the present inventors, etc., the branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable with said constitution has some problems. On the seabed or in other environments with a high hydraulic pressure, such as at a depth of 20-50 m, water seeps along portion (A) between the sheath of cable collection (4) and metal sleeve (6) and along portion (B) between sensor cable sheath (8) and cable holder (14), and water that enters the interior of metal sleeve (6) enters interior (C) of cable collection (4) and interior (D) of the sensor cables. The entering water reaches control part (E) connected to the cable collection and sensor meter (F) connected to the cable collection, and thus damages the equipment. This is undesirable. This trend is especially significant when the sheaths of the various cables are made of a soft material.

Purpose of the invention

The purpose of this invention is to provide a type of branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable free of water seepage even under a high hydraulic pressure.

Means to solve the problems

In order to realize the aforementioned purpose, this invention provides a type of branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable characterized by the following facts: a cable collection consisting of plural cables is inserted into one end opening of a metal sleeve that is nearly cylindrical; a sensor cable holder having plural branch pipes is fixed in the other opening of said metal sleeve; plural sensor cables are respectively inserted through the branch pipes; inside said metal sleeve, said cable collection branched into multiple cables are connected to said sensor cables, and a thermosetting resin is injected to fill the interior of the metal sleeve, followed by curing, and, at the same time, a heat-shrinkable tube with a prescribed width is shrunk such that it covers said branch pipes and sensor cables. As an embodiment of this invention of a branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable, one end of said metal sleeve is formed to gradually taper down to match the outer diameter of the sheath of the cable collection, and is made to adhere to the sheath of said cable collection by means of a putty made of a thermosetting resin or liquid rubber, or the putty made of a thermosetting resin is applied to entirely cover the joint between said metal sleeve and the sensor cable holder as well as the region where the heat-shrinkable tube is applied.

Application examples

In the following, the branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable of this invention will be explained in more detail, with reference to figures.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate an application example of the branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable of this invention. In this application example, a situation will be explained in which it is used in branch connection of a submarine cable for a submarine geological survey. However, this invention can also be adopted as a branch connecting structural body for submarine cables used for various other applications.

In this application example, in metal sleeve (26) that is nearly cylindrical and that has the branch connecting portion of the submarine cable positioned inside it, cable collection (24), such as a cable coated with polyethylene, which contains plural cables (22) each having one end (the left end shown in Figure 1) connected to a control part (not shown in the figure), is branched into a plurality of cables, with their conductors (22a) exposed. Said metal sleeve (26) may be made of any type of metal. In this application example, it is made of brass. On the other hand, plural sensor cables (28) covered with a polyethylene sheath or chloroprene rubber sheath are arranged inside said metal sleeve (26), and their exposed conductor portions (30) are connected to conductors (22a) branched from said cable collection by means of connecting fixtures (32). Also, as will be explained later, it is preferred that said connecting fixtures (32) be covered with a polyethylene sleeve or the like that has good adhesion to the resin filling said metal sleeve (26).

One end (26a) of metal sleeve (26) gradually tapers down to nearly fit the diameter of the sheath of cable collection (24), and it is adhered to the sheath of cable collection (24) by means of putty made of an epoxy resin or a curable type of liquid rubber (34). For example, TOHOPIT [transliteration] (commercial name) manufactured by Toho Chemical Industries, Ltd. can be advantageously used as said curable liquid rubber (34). In this case, when the cables of the cable collection have a polyethylene sheath, in order to ensure good adhesion between said putty made of epoxy resin or liquid rubber and the sheath of the cable collection, it is preferred that polyethylene/aluminum laminate tape (36) be wound on the sheath of the cable collection, followed by thermal fusing and then application of said putty made of epoxy resin or liquid rubber (34) to create a water resistant constitution. If the sheath of the cable collection is made of chloroprene rubber, it is preferred that the surface of the sheath be roughened, followed by cleaning with acetone or the like, before coating with the putty, etc.

Flange (26c) is formed at the opening at the other end (26b) of the metal sleeve. Sensor cable holder (38) is butted to said flange (26c) and mounted with bolts (40). Said sensor cable holder (38) has through holes (42) where sensor cables (28) respectively pass through. In addition, branch pipe (44) is integrally formed as a guiding sleeve connected to each through hole (42). Sensor cable (28) passes through said branch pipe (44) and through hole (42), and each is attached on sensor cable holder (38).

According to this invention, after sensor cable (28) passes through branch pipe (44) and through hole (42), heat-shrinkable tube (46) is placed to cover the sheath of sensor cable (28) and branch pipe (44). Then, putty made of epoxy resin or curable liquid rubber (48), of the same type as aforementioned, is applied to fully cover the region of the joint between metal sleeve flange (26c) and sensor cable holder (38) as well as that of said heat-shrinkable tube (46). In this case, when the sheath of sensor cable (28) is made of polyethylene, in order to ensure good adhesion between the sheath of said sensor cable and the putty made of epoxy resin or liquid rubber (48) as well as the resin (50) filling the metal sleeve, as will be explained later, it is preferred that a polyethylene/aluminum laminate tape (not shown in the figure) be wound on the sheath of the sensor cable, followed by heat fusing. On the other hand, if the sheath of the sensor cable is made of chloroprene rubber, it is preferred that the sheath surface be roughened and cleaned with acetone or the like beforehand.

In addition, according to this invention, hard thermosetting resin (50) made of polyurethane resin (shore D hardness of 60) is injected into said metal sleeve (26) through injecting port (26d), followed by curing. In order to improve the adhesion between metal sleeve (26) and said filling resin (50), it is preferred that the inner surface of the metal sleeve be pretreated. For example, it can be roughened by means of a wire brush or sand blasting or the

like, or it can be pre-coated with a urethane-based primer (such as C-2226 (commercial name) manufactured by the Nippon Urethane Industry Co., Ltd.).

After resin (50) is introduced into and cured inside the metal sleeve, it is preferred that the resin injection port in the metal sleeve be closed with cover (52), and that the outer surface of the metal sleeve, and the putty made of epoxy resin (34), (48) on the two ends of the metal sleeve, be covered with heat-shrinkable tubes (54), (56). Of course, although in this application example the flange side of the metal sleeve is covered with another heat-shrinkable tube (56), it can also be covered with a single heat-shrinkable tube (54).

Figure 2 is a diagram illustrating a preferred embodiment of this invention. In this scheme, O-ring (60) is arranged on the joint plane between flange portion (26c) of the metal sleeve and sensor cable holder (38), or packing (62) is placed in the portion where sensor cable holder (38) opens to the interior of metal sleeve (26), and attachment is realized by sensor code [sic; cable] clamp (64) arranged in contact with ring-shaped shoulder portion (26e) formed on the inner surface of metal sleeve (26) and by said sensor cable holder (38). As a result, water resistance can be further improved.

Effects of the invention

As explained above, for the branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable of this invention, in particular sensor cable is passed through the branch pipe of the sensor cable holder, and the gap between the branch pipe and the cable is sealed with a heat-shrinkable tube and further with a thermosetting resin or liquid rubber. Consequently, no water seepage takes place in the branch connecting portion, even under a high hydraulic pressure. This is a characteristic feature of this invention.

Brief description of figures

Figure 1 is a partial cross section of the branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable of this invention.

Figure 2 is a partially cut-away cross section of the branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating the branch connecting structural body of a submarine cable in the prior art.

24	 Cable collection
26	Metal sleeve
28	Sensor cable
32	Connecting fixture

34, 48	Thermosetting resin putty (or liquid rubber)	
38	Sensor cable holder	
44	Branch pipe	
46, 54, 56	Heat-shrinkable tube	
50	Thermosetting resin	

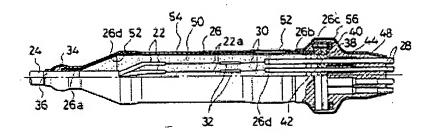


Figure 1

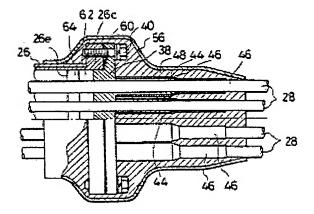


Figure 2

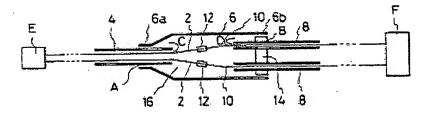


Figure 3

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明細書

1. 発明の名称

海底ケーブルの分岐接続構造体

2. . 特許請求の範囲

2)金属スリーブの一端は、集合ケーブルのシー

3) 海底ケーブルの分板接続構造体の外部を全て被理するように無収縮性チューブを設けて成る特許請求の範囲第2項記載の海底ケーブルの分板接続構造体。

3 . 発明の詳細な説明

産業上の利用分野

本発明は、一般には海底ケーブルに関するものであり、特に海底において一つのケーブルを分岐し他のケーブルに接続するための海底ケーブルの分岐接続構造体に関するものである。

使来の技術及び問題点

海底に布設する通信ケーブルの知き海底ケーブルは海底において、一つのケーブルから他のケーブルへと分検し接続する場合が頻繁に生じる。このような海底ケーブルの分検接続構造部に要求される基本的な要件は、木圧に耐え得、ケーブル接続 ひひ アーブル内部に浸水しないことが要求される。

上記目的は本発明に係る海底ケーブルの分岐接 統構造体にて達成される。 要約すれば 本発明は、 長略円筒形状とされる金属スリーブの一端閉口部 から復数のケーブルを内包した集合ケーブルを揮 入し、該金属スリーブの他の開口部には分板パイ プを複数個備えたセンサーケーブルホルダーを固 定し、該センサーケーブルホルダーの各分較パイ プを貫通して複数のセンサーケーブルを挿入し、 該金属スリープ内にて複数に分岐された前記集合 ケーブルと前記各センサーケーブルとを接続し、 該金属スリープ内に熱硬化性樹脂を往入充填して 硬化すると共に、前型各分板パイプとセンサーケ - ブルとを覆つて所定幅の熱収縮性チューブを収 稲匠質せしめたことを特徴とする海底ケーブルの 分被接続構造体である。本発明の一実施思様によ ると、金属スリーブの一端は、集合ケーブルのシ - スの外径に合致すべく漸次細くされそして熱硬 化性樹脂製パテにて鉄集合ケーブルのシースに密 着され、又、該金鼠スリープとセンサーケーブル ホルダーとの接合部及び無収縮チューブが設けら

発明の目的

本発明の目的は、高水圧環境下にても浸水を生じることのない海底ケーブルの分岐接続構造体を提供することである。

周頭点を解決するための手段

れた領域を完全に覆うようにして無硬化性樹脂製パテが弦布される。

実 施 例

次に、本発明に係る海底ケーブルの分検接続構 盗体を図面に即して更に詳しく説明する。

第1 図及び第2 図には太発明に係る海底ケープルの分岐接続構造体の一実施例が示される。 本実施例は、海底地質調査用海底ケーブルの分岐接続に使用されるものとして説明するが、本発明は積々の用途の海底ケーブルの分岐接続構造体として通用可能である。

ンゴムシースにて被殺された複数のセンサーケーブル28が前記金属スリーブ26内に配置された弱体部分30が接続金具32にで競技会のカーブルの各分岐された写体22aに接続される。又、 該接続金具32に、 技で説明するとになるように 数金属スリーブ 26内に充填される 元 関 掛 脂 との接着を良好にする べく例えばポリエチレンスリーブにて被覆するのが好ましい。

次いで、金属スリープフランジ26cとセンサー ケーブルホルダー38との接合部近伊及び前記熟 収組チューブ46を完全に覆う領域において、上 述したと同様のエポキシ樹脂製パテ又は硬化タイ プの液状ゴム48が塗布される。このとき、セン・ サーケーブル28のシースとしてポリエチレンを 使用した場合には、エポキシ樹脂製パテ又は液状 ゴム48及び後で説明する金属スリープ内に充填 される樹脂50と、該センサーケーブルシースと の接合を良好なものとするためにセンサーケーブ ルのシースにポリエチレン・アルミニウムラミネ ートテープ(図示せず)を巻付け熱融着させるこ とが好適であり、又、もし、センサーケーブルの シースがクロロブレンゴムである場合には、予め シース装面を棋面とし、次いでアセトン等で洗浄 しておくことが好ましい。

更に本発明に従えば、前記金呂スリーブ26内には、在入口26dを介してポリウレタン樹脂(硬度60ショアD)のような硬質熱硬化性樹脂50が往入充填され、そして硬化される。金屈ス

テープ36を他付け無触者させた上にニポキシ樹脂型パテ又は確状ゴム34を適合し、耐水性を有するように構成するのが好ましい。もし、集合ケーブルのシースがクロロブレンゴムである場合には、シース要面を租面とし、次いでアセトン等で洗涤した後パテ等を塗布するのが好ましい。

又、金属スリーブの他端266bの開口部にはフランジ26cが形成され、該フランジ26cに接合する遮線にてセンサーケーブルホルダー38はセンサーケーブル28がブルホルダー38はセンサーケーブル28は該分岐パイプ44が一体的にイアスリーブ、四ち、分岐パイプ44が一体的にイアルされる。センサーケーブル28は該分岐パイプル44及び透孔42を貫通して各センサーケーブルホルダー38に取付けられる。

本発明に従えば、センサーケーブル28を分岐パイプ44及び通孔42を貫通した後、センサーケーブル28のシースと分岐パイプ44とを被覆する監視にて熱収銀チユーブ46が設けられる。

リーブ 2 6 と 該 充填 樹脂 5 0 と の 接着性を 向上 せしめるために、 金属スリーブの内面は予め ワイヤブラシ又は サンドブラスト 等に て 粗面 処理 を 施 すか、 又は ウレタン系のプライマー (例えば、 商品名 C - 2 2 2 6 : 日本 ウレタン工業 技式会社 製)を予め内面に 塗布しておくのが 好適である。

本 見明の 好ましい 実施 黙様による と、 第 2 図に て 明 5 か な ように、 金属 スリーブの フランジ部 2 6 c と センサーケーブルホルダー 3 8 との 接 合面 に は 0 リング 5 0 を 設け、 又、 センサーケーブル ホルダー 3 8 が 金属 スリーブ 2 6 の 内部 に 開 口 し た部分にはパッキング 6 2 を配置し、 金属スリープ 2 6 の内面に形成した環状 肩部 2 6 e に 当接して配置されたセンサーコードクランプ 6 4 と 該センサーケーブルホルダー 3 8 とにて固定する 構成とすることによつてより一層の耐水性を得ることができる。

発用の効果

以上設明したように、本発明に係る海底ケーブルの分岐接続構造体によれば、特にセンサーケーブルホルダーの分岐パイプを 貫通して配置され、更に該分岐パイプとケーブル との隙間部が熱収縮性チューブ、更には熱硬化性 増脂又は液状ゴムにて密封されるので、高水圧環 境下にても分岐接続部に浸水を生じることがない という特長を有する。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は、本発明に係る海底ケーブルの分岐接 捻横遊体の部分版面図である。

第2回は、第1回の海底ケーブルの分岐接続構

造体の部分格段断面図である。

第3 図は、従来の海底ケーブルの分岐接続構造 体の概略説明斯面図である。

24:菜合ケーブル

26:金国スリープ

28:センサーケーブル

. 3 2 : 接続金具

34、48: 熱硬化性樹脂パテ

(又は液状ゴム)

38:センサーケーブルホルダー

44:分岐パイプ

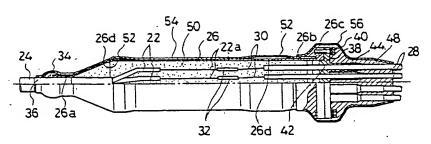
46、54、56: 熱収縮性チューブ

50:熟硬化性樹脂

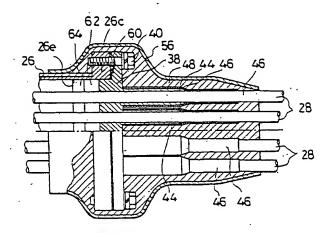
代理人 弁理士 山田明信



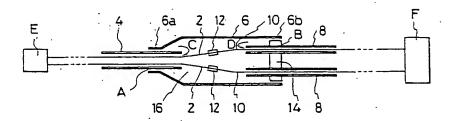
第 | 図



第2図



第3図



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